

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for re-booking passengers from cancelled flights, comprising the steps of:

determining a plurality of alternative flights for said passengers offered by an airline operating said cancelled flights and other airlines;

obtaining passenger data for each of said passengers, wherein said passenger data comprises ~~[[a]]~~ passenger re-booking costs that include~~[[s]]~~ ~~[[the]]~~ a cost to ~~[[an]]~~ said airline which has cancelled a flight ~~of offering~~ to re-book said passenger on one of said ~~[[an]]~~ alternative flights offered by a ~~different~~ said other airlines; and determining any accommodation costs associated with each one of said alternative flights offered by said airline, including hotel and meal charges, of accommodating the passenger until said alternative another flight offered by the airline[[s]] is available, and if the accommodation cost is less than the re-booking cost offering an accommodation to said passenger;

comparing said passenger data for said passengers with at least one or more rules; and

~~if the re-booking cost is less than the accommodation cost,~~ offering at least a portion of said a plurality of alternative re-booking flights to said passengers based upon said comparing step,

wherein at least one of said rules specifies offering said passengers an accommodation and said alternative flights available on said airline if said associated accommodation costs are less than the re-booking costs for said alternative flights on said other airlines, and

wherein at least another of said rules specifies offering said passengers said alternative flights on said other airlines if said re-booking costs for said alternative flights on said other airlines are less than said accommodation costs associated with said alternative flights on said airline.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said passenger data for each of said passengers comprises remaining unflown ticket value and a passenger lifetime value.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said passenger lifetime value comprises at least one of the frequent flyer status of the passenger and the ticket purchase history of the passenger.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said passenger data is provided real time.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said re-booking flights are determined from flight inventory data and reservation data.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said passenger data is obtained from at least one selected from the group consisting of accounting data, customer relationship management data, and loyalty data.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein a value score for each of said passengers is obtained using said passenger data, and said re-booking flights are offered to each of said passengers based upon said passenger value score.

8. (Currently Amended) A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

determining a plurality of alternative flights for passengers offered by an airline which cancelled said passengers' flight and other airlines;

obtaining passenger data for said passengers, wherein said passenger data comprises [[a]] passenger re-booking costs that include[[s]] the cost to [[an]] said airline which has cancelled a flight of offering to re-book said passenger on one of said [[an]] alternative flights offered by a different said other airlines; and determining any accommodation costs associated with each one of said alternative flights offered by said airline, including hotel and meal charges, of accommodating the passenger until said alternative another flight offered by the airline[[s]] is available, and if the accommodation cost is less than the re-booking cost offering an accommodation to said passenger;

comparing said passenger data for said passengers with at least one or more rules;
and

if the re-booking cost is less than the accommodation cost, offering at least a portion of said a plurality of alternative re-booking flights to each of said passengers based upon said comparing step,

wherein at least one of said rules specifies offering said passengers an accommodation and said alternative flights available on said airline if said associated accommodation costs are less than the re-booking costs for said alternative flights on said other airlines, and

wherein at least another of said rules specifies offering said passengers said alternative flights on said other airlines if said re-booking costs for said alternative flights on said other airlines are less than said accommodation costs associated with said alternative flights on said airline.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein said passenger data for each of said passengers comprises remaining unflown ticket value and a passenger lifetime value.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said passenger lifetime value comprises at least one of the frequent flyer status of the passenger and the ticket purchase history of the passenger.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said passenger data is provided real time.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said re-booking flight candidates are determined from flight inventory data and reservation data.

13. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said passenger data is obtained from at least one selected from the group consisting of accounting data, customer relationship management data, and loyalty data.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein a value score for each of said passengers is obtained using said passenger data, and said re-booking flights are offered to each of said passengers based upon said passenger value score.

15. (Currently Amended) A system for re-booking passengers who are unable to travel on scheduled flights, comprising:

means for determining ~~obtaining~~ re-booking flight candidates for said passengers, wherein said flight candidates comprise a plurality of alternative flights offered by an airline that offered the scheduled flights and other airlines,

means for obtaining passenger data for each of said passengers, wherein said passenger data comprises [[a]] passenger re-booking costs that includes [[the]] a cost to [[an]] said airline that offered the scheduled flights ~~which has cancelled a flight of offering to re-book said passenger on one of said [[an]] alternative flights offered by a different said other airlines, and [[:]] means for determining any accommodation costs with each one of said alternative flights offered by said airline, including hotel and meal charges, of accommodating the passenger until said alternative another flight offered by the airline[[s]] is available, and if the accommodation cost is less than the re-booking cost offering an accommodation to said passenger;~~

means for comparing ~~obtaining~~ passenger data for said passengers with at least one or more rules; and

means for offering at least a portion of said ~~a plurality of~~ alternative re-booking flights to said passenger based upon said comparing step ~~if the re-booking cost is less than the accommodation cost,~~

wherein at least one of said rules specifies offering said passengers an accommodation and said alternative flights available on said airline if said associated accommodation costs are less than the re-booking costs for said alternative flights on said other airlines, and

wherein at least another of said rules specifies offering said passengers said alternative flights on said other airlines if said re-booking costs for said alternative flights on said other airlines are less than said accommodation costs associated with said alternative flights on said airline.